

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application, claim 15 having been added herein. The Office Action has been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner required an election between the two species shown in Figures 1 and 2, and figures 3 and 4. The Examiner has alleged that there is no generic claim. Applicant hereby elects the species shown in figure 2 for examination, which is reflected in claims 1-8 and 15 of the present application. However, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's contention that no claims are generic.

In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and new independent claim 15 are generic claims. In particular, Applicant notes that the reinforcing means in claim 1 and claim 15 covers both the first embodiments shown in figures 1 and 2 and the second embodiments shown in figures 3 and 4. In particular, claim 1 recites, among other elements, "a reinforcing means defined between said pair of lifter links and said upwardly extended support means so as to reinforce said pair of lifter links while allowing for movement of said pair of lifter links with respect to said upwardly extending support means." Claim 15 is similar, and further defines the reinforcing means to include "a connecting

means by which said pair of lifter links are movably connected with the reinforcing means, thereby allowing for movement of the pair of lifter links with respect to said upwardly extending support means." Both of these limitations in the claims are found in both species.

Pages 6 to 8 of the present application, with respect to the first described embodiment, describes that the reinforcing means may be embodied by a reinforcing bracket (24), an arcuate hole (30) and a connecting slide pin (32), which are shown in Figure 1 and 2. This is supported and claimed independent claims 4 and 7.

On pages 9 to 11 of the present application, the reinforcing means is embodied by a lower extension area (14c) defined in the lifter link (14), an accurate hole (30') and a connecting slide pin (32), which is shown in Figures 3 and 4. This is claimed and supported in dependent claims 9, 10, and 14.

Accordingly, commonly in both of these exemplary embodiments, the pair of lifter links (14) is reinforced by either the reinforcing bracket (24) or the lower extension area (14c) while being allowed (by the arcuate hole (30 or 30')) and connecting side pin (32)) to move relative to the upwardly extending support means (at 18a). Applicant

respectfully submits that this basic concept is generically claimed in claim 1 as originally presented.

In addition to claim 1, Applicant added herein a new claim 15, which corresponds to original claim 1 and further includes the connecting means previously recited in dependent claims 4, 7, 9, 10, and 14. Such connecting means specifically refers to the aforementioned arcuate hole (30 or 30'), and connecting slide pin (32), which are commonly found in both embodiments.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 15 are generic claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the indication that no claims are generic. Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Appln. No. 10/765,211
Amd. dated June 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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